

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 25401 01 OF 02 012132Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----032373 012148Z /66

O 011408Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7935

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 25401

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND FOR THE WHITE HOUSE - MR.
BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (BARRE, RAYMOND) FR, US

SUBJECT: MY DINNER WITH BARRE

1. I HAD DINNER WITH BARRE AT THE MATIGNON ON
AUGUST 30. HE REFLECTED THE EVIDENT PLEASURE WITH
WHICH HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS US VISIT. IT
IS A TRIP TO WHICH HE AND GISCARD CLEARLY ATTACH
MAJOR IMPORTANCE.

2. WE REVIEWED PLANS FOR THE VISIT. BARRE
EXPRESSED PARTICULAR HOPE THAT HE MIGHT HAVE A
BRIEF TETE-A-TETE WITH THE PRESIDENT, DIRECTLY
AFTER THE WHITE HOUSE WELCOMING CEREMONIES, TO
GO OVER THE MORE SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE FRENCH
DOMESTIC SCENE. THIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE THE
MOMENT WHEN BARRE WILL REOPEN THE QUESTION OF A
POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT TO FRANCE THIS
FALL. I MADE SURE THAT BARRE WAS AWARE OF THE
PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULING PROBLEMS SO THAT A POSSIBLE
NEGATIVE RESPONSE WOULD NOT COME AS A SURPRISE.
HE, IN TURN, DID NOT PRESS ME TOO HARD -- I PRESUME
BECAUSE HE HAD NOT YET GONE OVER THIS AND OTHER
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KEY ASPECTS OF THE VISIT WITH GISCARD.

3. FOLLOWING A SHORT PRIVATE EXCHANGE WITH THE
PRESIDENT, BARRE ASSUMES THAT THERE WILL BE AN
ENLARGED MEETING INCLUDING HIS ASSISTANT PAYE,
GUIRINGAUD, LABOULAYE AND KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET. THE
MAJOR THEMES HE PROPOSES ARE THE STATE OF EAST-

WEST RELATIONS, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS, REGARDING WHICH HE SAID THAT HE SAW FEW DIFFERENCES WITH US; THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC ISSUES; AND US RELATIONS WITH EUROPE. ON ECONOMICS HE COMMENTED THAT HE TOO IS OPPOSED TO A PROTECTIONIST POLICY, AND WANTS TO WORK WITH US ON STRATEGIES BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT SPRING. HOWEVER IT WILL BE HARD, INDEED IMPOSSIBLE, FOR FRANCE TO AGREE TO POLITICALLY PAINFUL DECISIONS BEFORE THE FRENCH ELECTIONS. AS REGARDS US RELATIONS WITH EUROPE BARRE, AS ON OTHER OCCASIONS IN THE PAST, DWELT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND US-FRENCH BILATERAL RELATIONS AS A BASIS FOR POSITIVE EUROPEAN POLICIES OF COOPERATION. THIS IS A THEME HE WILL TREAT IN HIS PRESS CLUB TALK.

4. AS TO OTHER THEMES, HE HOPES TO DISCUSS AT THE WHITE HOUSE, BARRE MENTIONED THE MIDDLE EAST, THE MAJOR AFRICAN ISSUES AND DISARMAMENT. HE ASSUMES SOME OF THESE TOPICS MIGHT HAVE TO BE CARRIED OVER TO THE PROPOSED SECOND MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THE 16TH'

5. THESE THEMES, TOGETHER WITH THE NORTH-SOUTH QUESTION, WILL ALSO BE AT THE CENTER OF HIS LUNCHEON AND SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY WHERE HE CONFIDENTIAL

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HOPES TO GET INTO SOMEWHAT GREATER DETAIL ON ALL OF THEM. IN ADDITION, BARRE SAID, HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE SECRETARY'S IMPRESSIONS OF HIS TRIP TO CHINA WHERE BARRE HIMSELF WILL GO EARLY NEXT YEAR.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED WHITE HOUSE.

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 25401

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6. AS FOR HIS MEETINGS WITH OTHER CABINET MEMBERS, BARRE HOPES TO MEET WITH LANCE, SCHULZE AND STRAUSS TOGETHER. HE IS ALSO STILL LEANING TOWARD A JOINT MEETING BETWEEN BURNS AND BLUMENTHAL. HE HAS REQUESTED SEPARATE APPOINTMENTS WITH SECRETARIES BROWN AND SCHLESINGER AND WITH BROCK ADAMS.

7. FINALLY BARRE IS GEARING UP FOR HIS NATIONAL PRESS CLUB APPEARANCE. HE TOLD ME THAT HE INTENDS TO STRESS BROAD THEMES, SUCH AS FRANCO-AMERICAN COOPERATION; TO TAKE A BASIC AND NON-PERSONALIZED APPROACH ON FRENCH DOMESTIC ISSUES, AND EXPECTS TO REITERATE GISCARD'S EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFIDENCE, AS VOICED FOR INSTANCE AT THE LONDON SUMMIT. CONCORDE WILL REMAIN A DISCORDANT THEME.

8. IN SUM I FOUND BARRE CONCENTRATING HARD ON HIS TWO DAYS IN WASHINGTON. HE IS VERY CONSCIOUS THAT THIS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT EVENT SUBSTANTIVELY, BUT ALSO FOR FRENCH POLITICS IN THIS ELECTION YEAR. HE HIMSELF SHOULD DO WELL. HIS ENGLISH IS GOOD. HE IS SOLID, CONVINCED OF HIS COMMITMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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ENORMOUSLY COMPETENT, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND RETENTIVE. HE IS ALSO STILL UNASSUMING AND BEMUSED - PERHAPS BECAUSE HE HAS SOME DETACHMENT FROM THE POLITICAL PROCESS. ALL THIS MAKES FOR STRENGTH. HE SHOULD BE A GOOD VISITOR. HARTMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED WHITE HOUSE.

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